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18 June 1948

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GAZETTEER OF U.S.S.R.

We are handling the Gazetteer of Russian Place Names for the U.S.B.G.N. by the use of International Business Machines equipment installed in our own offices. Some 35,000 cards have now been punched, representing the names and variant names of populated places in Western Russia, and we intend to complete this part of the operation before going on to Asiatic Russia and the names of other geographic features.

In late August, we hope to have this first part of the operation completed and thoroughly checked by the B.G.N. for accuracy, and at that time we will publish a limited number of copies of the first edition of the list.

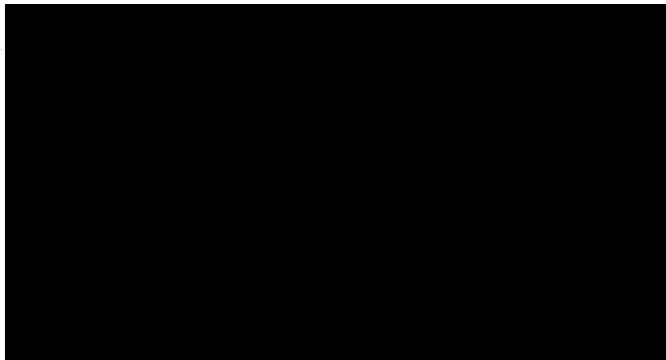
It is our intention to publish only as many copies of each revision as are actually needed for operational and intelligence purposes. The flexibility gained by use of our IBM equipment will enable us to keep the punchcard file at all times in accord with the latest decisions of the B.G.N., and to publish revisions on very short notice.

I believe your interests would best be served by our undertaking to provide for you, on a current and continuing basis, copies of the punchcards held in our files. Thus you would be in a position to produce as many or as few copies of the lists as you needed, to issue revisions whenever you found it desirable, and to publish in whatever format best suited your needs. Though I understand that [REDACTED] does not itself possess IBM equipment, you could doubtless arrange to make use of the equipment operated [REDACTED] by one of the following offices:

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If this proposal is acceptable, we will plan to send you (1) copies of all punchcards maintained in our B.G.N. file, (2) one copy of each list produced by us, and (3) copies of the wiring diagrams used by our tabulator operators in printing lists. The latter will enable your IBM people to operate their machines exactly as we do ours.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ R. H. HILLENKOETTER

R. H. HILLENKOETTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central Intelligence

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